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Letter dated 2 September 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Portugal, in its capacity as Presidency of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a declaration published by CPLP on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the referendum that led to the independence of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Lobo de Mesquita**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of Portugal to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 2 September 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement

The Democratic Republic of East Timor celebrates today, 30 August 2009, the tenth anniversary of the referendum that led to the independence of this young nation.

At this historical moment, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) congratulates the authorities as well as the people of East Timor, joining them in the celebrations marking both the end of 25 years of external domain and the recovery of its national sovereignty.

The CPLP and its member States pay tribute to the East Timorese people, who, with their effort and sacrifice, contributed in a decisive way to the establishment of a democratic regime in this CPLP member State.

The CPLP rejoices with the progress achieved by this country in the last 10 years, and takes this opportunity to salute the East Timorese authorities, who demonstrated their commitment to overcome the initial difficulties concerning the consolidation of the rule of law, finding compromise solutions, through dialogue, allowing the East Timorese people to enjoy the benefits of a plural and democratic society, established by the restoration of independence.

The CPLP salutes the persistence of the East Timorese leaders in the sustained growth of the Organization, and assures its continuous support to the consolidation process of the country's institutions, the reinforcement of its national unity and the defence of its national sovereignty.